

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting a message from a sender to a recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, including the steps at the server of:

receiving the message at the server from the sender;

transmitting the message from the server to the recipient; and

providing for a return transmission of a reply from the recipient to the sender through the server, the reply not originating on the server.

A method of providing a recipient of an email with proof of the transmission, receipt and content of a reply to the email that is manually initiated by the recipient, comprising:

receiving a message from a sender at a server displaced from the recipient;

assigning a unique identification of the message by the server;

storing the unique identification of the message in a database;

transmitting the message from the server to the recipient;

generating a manually initiated reply to the message at the recipient, the manually initiated reply including a request from the recipient to receive proof of transmission or delivery of the manually initiated reply to the sender;

transmitting the manually initiated reply to the sender through the server;

receiving the manually initiated reply at the server;

processing the request by the recipient to receive proof of transmission or delivery of the manually initiated reply to the sender;

transmitting the manually initiated reply by the recipient to the sender in a manner wherein the server receives an indication that the reply is transmitted or delivered to the sender; and,

transmitting the indication that the reply is transmitted or delivered to the sender to the recipient.

2. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the message is provided with a unique identification by the server and wherein

the reply from the recipient through the server to the sender is provided on the basis of ~~this~~ the unique identification of the message by the server.

3. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 2 wherein

the reply by the recipient through the server provides for an identification of each of a plurality of recipients on the basis of individual identifications related to the unique identification of the message.

4. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein

the message from the sender to the recipient is provided in a particular format at the server.

5. (Cancelled) ~~A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein~~

~~the reply includes a request from the recipient to receive proof of transmission or delivery of the reply and wherein~~

~~the server responds to the request in the reply to provide the proof of the transmission or delivery of the reply to the sender.~~

6. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein

the recipient provides a fictional destination address and wherein

the destination address is at the server and wherein

a database associated with the server stores the identity of the message and the identity and address of the sender and wherein

the reply includes an identification of the message and the name and address of the sender and wherein

the server parses the message and the name and address of the sender from the fictional destination address and directs the reply to the sender at the sender's address.

7. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 2 wherein

the reply by the recipient through the server provides for an identification of each of a plurality of recipients on the basis of individual identifications related to the unique identification of the message and wherein

the message from the sender to the recipient is provided in a particular format at the server and wherein

the reply includes a request from the recipient to receive proof of transmission or delivery of the reply and wherein

the server responds to the request in the reply to provide the proof of the transmission or delivery of the reply to the sender and wherein

the recipient provides a fictional destination address and wherein

the destination address is at the server and wherein

a database associated with the server stores the identity of the message and the identity and address of the sender and wherein

the reply includes an identification of the message and the name and address of the sender and wherein

the server parses the message and the name and address of the sender from the fictional destination address and directs the reply to the sender at the sender's address.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A method of transmitting a message from a sender to a recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, including the steps at the server of:

receiving the message at the server from the sender,

providing the message with a unique identification by the server,

providing the sender with a unique identification related to the unique identification of the message by the server,

transmitting the message from the server to the recipient,

storing the unique identification of the message and the sender including an address of the sender in a database by the server,

initiating manually a reply to the message by the recipient, the reply including a request from the recipient to receive proof of delivery of the reply to the sender and proof of content of the reply, the reply also including the unique identification,

receiving the reply at the server,

determining by the server the identification and address of the sender through the identification of the message stored in the database,

locating in the database by the server the identification of the message and the sender using the unique identification in the reply, and

transmitting to the sender through the server any the reply by the recipient to the sender in a manner wherein the server receives an indication that the reply is delivered to the sender and proof of the content of the reply,

transmitting by the server the reply to the address of the sender

transmitting to the recipient the indication that the reply is delivered to the sender and proof of the content of the reply.

10. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 9 wherein

the reply by the recipient through the server provides for an identification of each of a plurality of recipients on the basis of individual identifications related to the individual identification of the message.

11. (Currently amended) A method of transmitting a message from a sender to a recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, including the steps of:

receiving the message at the server from the sender,

assigning a fictional address of the sender,

replacing the address of the message with the fictional address,

storing the fictional address of the sender in a database,

transmitting the message from the server to the recipient,

providing for a reply from the recipient to the message from the sender through the fictional address of the sender in the database, the reply including instructions from the recipient to the server to obtain poof of the delivery of the reply to the sender and proof of content of the reply delivered to the sender,

transmitting the reply to the sender through the server,

receiving the reply at the server,

recovering the true address of the sender from the fictional address of the sender in the database, and

transmitting the reply through the server to the true address of the sender in a manner wherein the server receives an indication that the reply is delivered and proof of the content of the reply that was delivered to the sender, and, the reply not originating on the server

transmitting by the server to the recipient the indication that the reply was delivered and proof of the content of the reply that was delivered to the sender.

12. (Cancelled) A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein

the recipient provides instructions to obtain proof of the delivery of the reply to the sender and proof of content of the reply and wherein

the server provides to the recipient proof of the delivery of the reply to the sender and proof of the content of the reply.

13. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 12 wherein

the message is provided with a unique identification by the server and wherein

the reply from the recipient through the server to the sender is provided on the basis of the unique identification of the message by the server.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting a message from a sender to a recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, including the steps at the server of:

receiving the message from the sender,

assigning the message a unique identification,

storing the unique identification of the message and the sender address in an address in a database,

sending the message to the recipient,

receiving a reply from the recipient to the server with the unique identification of the message, the reply including instructions added by the recipient to the server for the server to supply to the recipient proof of delivery of the delivery of the reply to the sender and to confirm the content of the reply that was delivered to the sender.

extracting the unique identification of the message in the reply,

obtaining the address of the sender from the database on the basis of the unique identification of the message in the database,

re-addressing the reply to the sender, and

sending the reply to the sender in a manner wherein the server receives an indication that the reply is delivered to the sender and confirmation of the content of the reply that was delivered to the sender, and

transmitting a delivery receipt and proof of content of the reply delivered to the sender to the recipient.

15. (Cancelled) A method as set forth in claim 14 wherein

the server also sends the reply to the recipient to confirm that the recipient has sent the reply to the sender and to confirm the content of the reply.

16. (Original) A method asset in claim 14 wherein

there is at least one other addressee in addition to the recipient and wherein
the one other addressee is provided with a unique identification in the unique
identification of the message and wherein
the unique identification of the one other addressee is stored in the database and
wherein
the reply is indicated to the one other addressee as coming from the recipient on
the basis of the unique identification of the one other addressee in the database.

17. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 14 wherein

a delivery receipt is generated from the reply from the recipient to the sender and
wherein
the delivery receipt is transmitted to the sender and the recipient.
18. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 14 wherein

the message is provided with a particular format and wherein
the message is transmitted to the recipient in the particular format.
19. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 14 wherein

the reply from the recipient is sent registered from the server to the sender and
wherein a delivery receipt is generated for the reply and wherein
the delivery receipt is transmitted to the sender and the recipient.
20. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 16 wherein

the server also sends the reply to the recipient to confirm that the recipient has
sent the reply to the sender
the message is provided with a particular format and wherein
the message is transmitted to the recipient in the particular format and wherein
the reply from the recipient is sent registered from the server to the sender and
wherein
a delivery receipt is generated for the reply and wherein
the delivery receipt is transmitted to the sender and the recipient.